

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Jersey City Receives \$1 Million From Federal Government to Purchase Critical Life-Saving Gear

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and Fire Department officials announced today that the City of Jersey City was awarded a **\$1 million grant** from the **U.S Department of Homeland Security** to purchase vital equipment for the city's first responders.

Officials said the \$1 million will go directly to purchase "turnout gear" or protective firefighting safety gear, as well as life-saving thermal imaging cameras that are designed to track hidden heat sources that could be victims buried beneath rubble or smoldering flames hidden in walls.

Jersey City applied for the **Assistance to Firefighters Grant program**, which was conceived in 2001 by Congressman Bill Pascrell to help fire departments fund costly equipment replacement and training. Of New Jersey cities, Jersey City received the largest amount, nearly half of the \$2 million statewide allocation.

"We are always applying for grants from the federal and the state government that can defray the cost of equipment and resources to improve the quality of life for our residents," said **Mayor Healy**, who acknowledged Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez, along with Congressmen Albio Sires and Bill Pascrell for their support in receiving the grant. "This type of equipment is vital to the work our firefighters do every day, and with this grant the cost will not fall on the backs of the taxpayers."

"When you see firefighters out there in their gear, it has the appearance of being indestructible, but it's not," said **Fire Director Armando Roman**. "Heat from flames or tears in the material compromises the safety of the gear for our firefighters, so it has to be replaced immediately. Also, pathogens, blood and chemicals often get on the clothing, which then must be immediately replaced. That's why a grant like this is vital."

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“We are the second largest City in the State of New Jersey and our needs are greater than many other municipalities,” said **Director Roman**. “When these suits (turnout) cost more than \$1,000 each, it can get very expensive. Thanks to the grant, now it won’t be as costly to the taxpayers in our community.”

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699./////